

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
SEP 25 2007**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are set forth below and have been amended where noted:

Claims 1-57 (Canceled)

58. (Previously presented) An apparatus to traverse a seabed topographic feature, comprising:

a subsea pipeline constructed to carry fluids from a first location across the topographic feature to a second location; wherein:

the topographic feature is selected from the group consisting of subsea basins, domes, valleys, cliffs, canyons, escarpments and combinations thereof;

said pipeline comprising at least one distributed buoyancy region;

said pipeline comprising a first unbuoyed pipeline section extending from said first location on a sea floor to said distributed buoyancy region and a second unbuoyed pipeline section extending from said distributed buoyancy region to said second location on a sea floor; and

said distributed buoyancy region comprising two or more buoyancy solutions disposed thereon and a flexible positively buoyant inverse catenary section connecting said first and said second pipeline sections in fluid communication; and

a first flexure control device at said first location to reduce bending stress and strain in said first unbuoyed pipeline section said distributed buoyancy region connecting said first and said second pipeline sections in fluid communication.

59. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the buoyancy solution comprises one or more buoyancy-providing modules disposed along a length of said pipeline.

60. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the buoyancy solution comprises a continuous coating of buoyant material.
61. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 58 further including comprising a tether system to retain said pipeline in position and to resist forces of undersea currents.
62. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said first and said second pipeline sections are negatively buoyant.
63. (Canceled)
64. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said first flexure control device is located proximate to a cliff edge of the topographic feature.
65. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said first flexure control device is located distant to a cliff edge of the topographic feature.
66. (Previously presented) A pipeline for traversing a topographic seabed, comprising:
 - a first unbuoyed section located subsea;
 - a second unbuoyed section located subsea; and
 - at least one buoyancy section disposed between the first and second unbuoyed sections, the buoyancy section comprising two or more spatially arranged buoyancy solutions, disposed about an outer diameter thereof, and wherein the first and second unbuoyed sections are in fluid communication with one another via the buoyancy section.
67. (Currently amended) The pipeline of claim 66, wherein the each buoyancy solution comprises two or more discrete buoyancy-providing modules.
68. (Previously presented) The pipeline of claim 67, wherein the buoyancy-providing module is a buoy.
69. (Previously presented) The pipeline of claim 67, wherein the buoyancy-providing module

is a tethered buoy.

70. (Currently amended) The pipeline of claim 67 66, wherein ~~the buoyancy-providing module~~ each buoyancy solution is a buoyant coating.
71. (Previously presented) The pipeline of claim 66, wherein the topographic seabed comprises one or more subsea basins, domes, valleys, cliffs, canyons, escarpments, or combinations thereof.
72. (Previously presented) The pipeline of claim 67, wherein the discrete buoyancy-providing module is a buoyant coating, buoy, or combination thereof.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added with these amendments.

Response to Office Action dated 07-26-07
Serial Number: 10/10/711,487

4